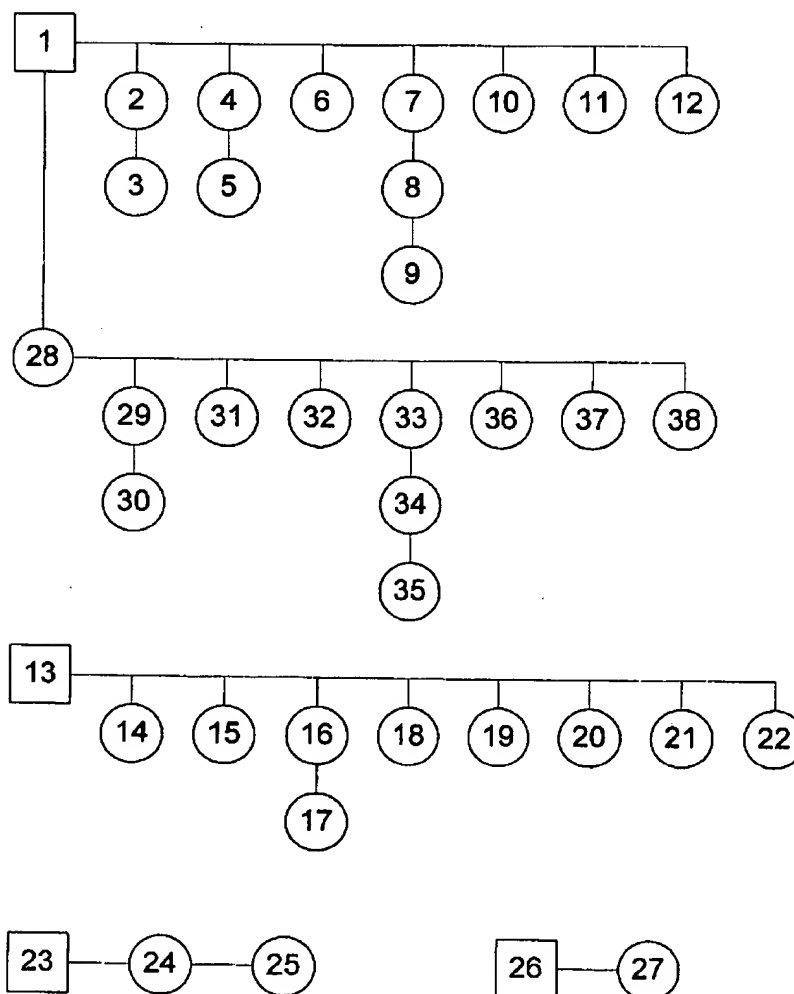


In re Application of PARKES et al.
Application No. 09/436,618

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. An Office action mailed July 30, 2003 is pending in the application. Applicants have carefully considered the Office action and the references of record. In the Office action, claims 1-38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a), and claim 6 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. In this response to the Office action, claims 1, 6, 13, 18, 23, 26 and 32 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1-38 are pending in the application. The following diagram depicts the relationship between the independent and dependent claims, as amended.



In re Application of PARKES et al.
Application No. 09/436,618

Examiner Interview and Claim Rejections Under U.S.C. § 103 Of The Independent Claims

Applicants thank Examiner Ali for the courtesy of a telephone interview on November 18, 2003 to discuss the Office action mailed July 30, 2003. Applicants were represented by Messrs. Dodson and Conklin. During the interview, proposed amendments to independent claims 1, 13, 23 and 26 were discussed with respect to the teachings of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,796,954 and 5,553,305 to Hanif et al. ("Hanif") and Gregor et al. ("Gregor"), respectively. As recorded in the Interview Summary (paper number 7), agreement was reached during the interview that the proposed amendments, which are formally presented herein, distinguish the claimed invention from the teachings of Hanif and/or Gregor.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Dependent claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for a claim limitation without sufficient antecedent basis. Claim 6 is amended herein to provide sufficient antecedent basis for each claim limitation. Claims 18 and 32 are amended herein to correct a like informality.

The Remaining Dependent Claims

Each of claims 1, 13, 23 and 26 is in independent form, whereas all of the remaining claims depend directly or indirectly on one of these four independent claims. The dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons that the four independent claims 1, 13, 23 and 26 are allowable in that the dependent claims incorporate the features of the independent claims. Nevertheless, the dependent claims further define subject matter not shown or rendered obvious by the prior art of record. Because the independent claims are allowable over the applied prior art, applicants do not believe remarks addressing this further subject matter are necessary herein.

CONCLUSION

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of

In re Application of PARKES et al.
Application No. 09/436,618

the examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard P. Dodson, Reg. No. 52,824
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
1420 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2200
Seattle, Washington 98101
(206) 521-5987 (telephone)
(206) 224-3557 (facsimile)

Date: December 19, 2003